



King County

Mental Health, Chemical Abuse and Dependency Services Division

Department of
Community and Human Services

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King County Mental Health Advisory Board (MHAB) Regular Meeting June 10, 2014

Members Present: Maria Davis, Nancy Dow, John Holecek, Kristin Houser, Toni Krupski, Katelyn Morgaine, Eleanor Owen, Heather Spielvogel

Members Absent: Lauren Davis, Alicia Glenwell, Allen Panitch, (excused); Veronica Kavanagh (unexcused)

Guests Present: Kathy Obermeyer (Guest); Jeanne Slonecker (MH Ombuds)

Mental Health, Chemical Abuse and Dependency Services Division (MHCADSD)
Staff Present: Bryan Baird, Brad Finegood, Jean Robertson

I. Welcome and Introductions

Toni Krupski, Chair, convened the meeting at 4:35 p.m., in the Chinook Building, 401 5th Avenue, Seattle, Conference Room 126. Members were welcomed and introductions were made by each member. A quorum was present for the meeting.

Jean Robertson introduced Brad Finegood, new Assistant Division Director. Brad gave a brief history of himself. He is new to King County from Clark County, Washington; he holds a Master's degree in counseling; he is a licensed mental health clinician; and has worked largely with therapeutic drug courts.

II. Minutes Approval

The May 13th meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

III. Board Officer Election

Maria Davis counted and collected the ballots and revealed the results aloud. The new Chair is Kristin Houser; Vice Chair is Heather Spielvogel.

IV. Chairperson's Report

Chair Toni Krupski followed up to the May meeting when Jim spoke of his vision for the future as Division Director. Toni solicited thoughts from members of that meeting, particularly the idea of integrating the Boards.

Member discussion included these topics:

- Will board size enable Boards to get anything done?
- Advisory vs. Administrative Board
- Services after integration
- Services for children
- Housing
- Food
- Medical coverage
- Leadership
- Subcommittees

Members gave unique points of view, and concerns were discussed in support of integrating both boards, yet the process needs to be thoughtful on how this is done. "Continued segregation of services hurts clients."

Toni encouraged the new officers to keep this wide topic a priority. This will be her last meeting as Chair, and thanked everyone for their support of her and has learned so much in her position as Chair. Jean Robertson presented Toni with a Certificate of Appreciation for her service these past two years.

Kristin added her thoughts and appreciation of how well and amazing Toni has thoughtfully led the Board with her personality and gifts these past two years.

V. Committee Reports

Legislative Advocacy and Public Affairs Committee (LAPAC) Update

Some MHCADSD staff, along with some King County Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Administrative Board (KCASAAB) members, met with Senator Patty Murray's staff to discuss the Institution for Mental Diseases (IMD) exclusion. It was a fruitful discussion of the impacts of the regulation. Senator Murray's staff recommended the LAPAC to continue to reach out to Senator Cantwell's office in addition to some letter writing to President Obama and the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS). The Senator's staff advised the LAPAC to keep lobbying; the more the better. Letters from the county executive would also be helpful.

Jean noted the current language states, "...a person residing in an institution" which should not apply to short term stays of acute care. She encouraged members to write letters from the Board

Eleanor Owen argued that the Murphy Bill, HR3717, known as the Families in Crisis Act, is a more urgent matter than writing letters in support of the aforementioned Bill. The bill is intended to assist families with adults in mental health crisis to receive involuntary treatment service options. In response, Kristin Houser reminded us that our Board made a commitment to work with the KCASAAB to remove the IMD exclusion and that it is important for us to keep that commitment.

Chair Krupski moved the Board work with the KCASAAB to draft and sign a letter in support of removing the IMD exclusion to be sent to President Obama and the Secretary of HHS. Maria Davis thought adding each board member signature to the letter to give the letter more weight. The motion was seconded by Nancy Dow. This motion was approved by six members; opposed by one member.

Membership Committee

Bryan and Jean met with Alicia Glenwell and discussed recruitment ideas to be worked on in Alicia's absence while she is on maternity leave. The membership committee meetings are on hold until she returns from leave in September.

Quality Council (QC) Update

Chair Krupski reported the QC meetings have been suspended until September as well. An integration subcommittee will be formed within the County; members of the Board will be invited to participate. The MHAB members, Maria, Nancy, and Toni are interested in serving on the committee.

Recovery Advisory Committee (RAC) Update

Jean reported the RAC has lost focus; attendance has been poor and meetings canceled. A decision was made to suspend the committee for now. A suggestion to create an ad hoc committee to revise the RAC charter, recreating it as a more robust group that represents both mental health and substance abuse sides together.

VI. Staff Report – Jean Robertson

Jean opened discussion on the May 2014 Seattle Times article by Brian M. Rosenthal and exposed some of the inaccuracies in the article. With the increase in workload and no increase in staff, it has been particularly challenging and, at times, timelines have been missed. However, the extrapolation of how many people are released from court each year for a time violation is exaggerated. The article being referenced can be found here:

http://seattletimes.com/html/localnews/2023580326_mentalhealthtechnicalityxml.html

Another example the author failed to mention is there are timelines the hospital must meet, independent of County timelines, to have a mental health professional assessment. That can be delayed for a number of reasons such as if an individual needs medical care.

The author also inaccurately reported the County does not have any planning or timeline for addressing issues. The truth is, the County is currently expanding the Mobile Crisis Team to relieve designated mental health professionals (DMHPs) so they can focus on involuntary treatment evaluations; next day appointments have been added to divert more individuals and prevent unnecessary hospitalizations; the Crisis Diversion Facility and the Crisis Interim Services have been expanded for more capacity; overtime authorized for DMHPs to complete cases; temporary staff are being on-boarded to accommodate referral flow, etc. Jean stated the County is beginning to track this with data, will be collaborating with hospitals, tracking missed timelines, cases lost in court, etc., to develop the appropriate controls, understanding the scope of the problem to revamp the system.

With these new data systems in place, Chair Krupski requested that Jean bring this information back to the Board from time to time.

VII. Quarterly Liaison Reports

Maria Davis reported Pioneer Human Services (PHS) is expanding greatly by bringing in more mental health (MH) and substance use disorder (SUD) clinicians; supporting the Dutch Shisler Sobering Center with a peer case manager; 24-hour mental health services available; MH and SUD clinicians within housing; will have a crisis team; PHS has a crisis line; Moral Reconciliation Therapy classes are now being taught for Level Three sex offenders.

Also, Maria noted she has not been contacted by Valley Cities after repeated letters sent out by MHCADSD; she was advised to drop the agency.

Nancy Dow reported Sound Mental Health had a peer staff presentation, with seven staff, that was wonderful and their Board was very receptive.

VIII. Board and Community Concerns

No report.

IX. Adjournment:

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m. in order to spend time saying farewell to Eleanor Owen who is stepping down from Board membership.

Prepared by:
Bryan Baird, Board Liaison

Attested by:
Toni Krupski, Chair